

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 71-99 drawn to nonelected inventions have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the non-elected claims in other future divisional applications.

New claims 100-109 drawn to antibodies and antisera of altered Staphylococcal enterotoxin B have been added. The claims find support throughout the specification and claims as originally filed, specifically, on page 24, starting at line 33, and in the Examples. Entry of the new claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the telephonic interview with Examiner. As discussed with Examiner Caputa during the telephonic interview on August 19, 1998, Applicants traverse this restriction requirement on the basis that the inventions of Group I-V have all been classified in the same class and subclass and a search in the art for one invention would cover the same ground for the other four groups of claims.

The Examiner stated during the telephonic discussion that the different inventions of Groups I - V, even though they are similarly classified, are believed to be patentably distinct and, therefore, would require an election of invention.

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Therefore, in response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect, with traverse, the invention of Group II, claims 4-6, 12-14, 21-23, 29-31, 37-39, 47-49, 56-58, and 65-67, drawn to altered Staphylococcal enterotoxin B DNA and reserve the right to prosecute the nonelected claims of Group I, III-V in other divisional applications. Claims 1, 18, 43, 44, 53, and 62 will be examined with elected Group II, as indicated by Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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